

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01
IO-13 MCT-01 /073 W
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P R 191729Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8663
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: THE BASQUE TANGLE: A FOLLOW UP

REF: MADRID 0381

1. AS ANTICIPATED BY REFTTEL, INTERIOR MINISTER MARTIN VILLA MET YESTERDAY WITH FIVE GUIPUZCOAN MAYORS, WHO WERE LATER ALSO RECEIVED BY THE FIRST VICE PRIME MINISTER, GENERAL GUTIERREZ MELLADO. OTHER THAN TO EXPRESS "MODERATE OPTIMISM" AND TO INDICATE THAT SUCH MEETINGS WOULD CONTINUE, THE FIVE LEFT IT TO THE GOVT TO RELEASE AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ON THE MEETINGS WHICH, IN SUMMARY, STATED:
THE USE AND EXHIBITION OF THE BASQUE FLAG ("IKURINA")

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WOULD BE TOLERATED.
THE BRIADENING OF THE AMNESTY'S APPLICATION IS BEING STUDIED, BUT RECENT ACTS OF TERRORISM AR SLOWING THE PROCESS.
THE GOVT INTENDS TO PROCEED GRADUALLY AND PROGRESSIVELY TOWARD CO OFFICIAL STATUS FOR THE BASQUE LANGUAGE ("EUSKERA"), BEGINNING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

ANY RESTORATION OF "FORAL RIGHTS" (SPECIAL BASQUE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF GREATER REGIONAL AUTONOMY) WILL HAVE TO AWAIT THE INSTITUTION OF A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PARLIAMENT.
THE DEFINITIVE SOLUTION TO FUNDAMENTAL BASQUE PROBLEMS MUST BE DECIDED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PARLIAMENT.

2. A SUB CABINET OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF PRIVATELY TODAY THAT ONE OR TWO BASQUE PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, INCLUDING GUIPUZCOA'S MAY RESIGN IN DISAGREEMENT OVER THE GOVT'S BRIDGE BUILDING EFFORT. ALTHOUGH WE NOTE THAT FONMIN OREJA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR MONDAY (MADRID 358) THAT SOME GOVERNORS RESIGNATIONS MIGHT WELL BE REQUESTED, IN ORDER TO REPLACE THEM WITH OFFICIALS MORE IN TUNE WITH BASQUE REALITY.

3. COMMENT : AMCONSUL BILBAO JUDGES THAT GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATION OF THE FLYING OF THE IKURRINA IS A POSITIVE AND IMPORTANT STEP, BUT THE AMNESTY CONTINUES TO BE THE CENTRAL ISSUE FROM THE BASQUE'S POINT OF VIEW, AND THE ONE MOST CAPABLE OF EVOKING THE DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH COULD REKINDLE A CYCLE OF VIOLENCE AND UNDERMINE PROGRESS TOWARD A RESOLUTION OF THE BASQUE PROBLEM. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, SP, (VILLA, MARTIN)
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